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Letter dated 1 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 1 October 2001 from Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, concerning the serious charges and false allegations levelled at Kuwait by Iraq in the letter dated 19 September 2001 addressed to you by its Minister for Foreign Affairs (S/2001/899, annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 19 September 2001 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you (S/2001/899, annex), which again levels serious charges and false allegations at Kuwait and calls into question the resolutions of the Security Council. I should like in this connection to call your attention to the following:

1. Any activity undertaken by the State of Kuwait in order to exploit and develop its natural resources at any location in its territory and within its internationally recognized boundaries is subject to Kuwait's absolute sovereignty alone. This is something that Iraq also does when it exercises sovereignty throughout its territory.

2. Iraq alleges that Kuwait is depleting the oilfields on the Kuwaiti side of the border between the two countries and that this action causes the migration of Iraqi oil to the Kuwaiti fields. In this connection, the Iraqi letter states that Kuwait has few wells in the Ratqah and Abdali fields and that the daily output of those wells was no more than a few thousand barrels prior to 1990. In fact, the letter constitutes a condemnation of the Government of Iraq and represents an explicit acknowledgement of the falsity of the allegations made in the letter dated 17 July 1990 from Minister for Foreign Affairs Tariq Aziz addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, which affirmed that Kuwait had stolen Iraqi oil worth 2.4 billion United States dollars. Iraq used these false charges and allegations as a justification and a pretext for its invasion of the State of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

3. Iraq claims that international sanctions are preventing it from exploiting the oilfields on the Iraqi side of the border with Kuwait and are impeding activities to develop its petroleum industry. This does not accord with reality, inasmuch as Iraq is engaging in wide-ranging oil-related activity along the Iraqi side of the boundary, as is stated in paragraph 10 of the periodic report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission that was circulated in March 2001 (S/2001/287). Furthermore, this allegation does not accord with Security Council resolution 1293 (2000) of 31 March 2000, by which the Council, at the recommendation of the Secretary-General, doubles, to 600 million dollars, the allocations for the oil sector in each phase under the oil-for-food programme in order to develop Iraq's petroleum industry. According to the weekly reports of the Office of the Iraq Programme, oil-related spare parts and equipment worth 900 million dollars have reached Iraq since the commencement of the humanitarian programme and equipment worth 1.3 billion dollars is on the way. This is despite the deliberate dilatoriness of the Iraqi Government in concluding contracts for the purchase of the items in question.

Iraq's allegation that there is migration of oil from the Iraqi fields on the Iraqi side of the border to the Kuwaiti fields on the Kuwaiti side is refuted by the technical and scientific facts, which confirm the very opposite. Prior to 1990, Iraq engaged in intensive oil production over a period of more than 40 years in the Rumaylah and Zubayr fields at a time when it was possible for Kuwait to produce only very little oil. This depleted the reserves in the oil reservoirs and thence there was migration of oil from the Kuwaiti side to the Iraqi side.

With regard to Iraq's charge that Kuwait is interfering in its internal affairs, I should like to state that Kuwait's constant policy has been based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, while it is Iraq that committed a crime of invasion and aggression unprecedented in Arab history and that occupied the State of Kuwait in 1990. Iraq's policy of hostility towards Kuwait and its neighbours and of interference in their internal affairs remains in place, and this creates a constant focus of tension in the region. Perhaps the most salient feature of this policy is that the Iraqi authorities have organized assemblages of Iraqis along the border with Kuwait, claiming that these people are Kuwaiti nationals and that Kuwait is refusing to allow them to return to the country. The Iraqi authorities have likewise established an organization to which they have given the name "Kuwaiti League of Truth". Iraq has also instructed its security elements to infiltrate into Kuwait in order to engage in terrorist acts and espionage.

By persistently adhering to this hostile approach Iraq is only seeking to evade its obligations with respect to compliance with the relevant international resolutions, and this poses a threat to security and stability in the region. On this basis, the State of Kuwait denies in the strongest terms these repeated Iraqi charges. It calls upon you, by virtue of your responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to urge Iraq to desist from pursuing this approach, to renounce the aggressive and provocative practices that pose a serious threat to the security and stability of the State of Kuwait and to comply with all the relevant international resolutions.

(*Signed*) Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber **Al-Sabah**
Acting Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs